

21 October 1958

Ward

Mr. William Gill, Executive Secretary
Volunteers for Freedom
337 Blvd. of the Allies, Post Office Box 781
Pittsburgh 30, Pennsylvania

Dear Mr. Gill:

I remember well our conversation in August and I have read with interest your letter to the President of October 2 and the statement of purpose of the "Volunteers for Freedom." This statement demonstrates your acute awareness of the Communist threat to the security of the free world. I might point out, in passing, that the threat is not only from "Communist imperialism" as a power factor but also from Communist doctrine, which tends to counter directly the basic assumptions of our Western civilization. Not only governments and government agencies but private citizens and organizations must be alive to the menace and it is gratifying to note that you have turned the attention of your movement to the spiritual and ideological resistance to Communist inroads.

Here in our own work we are, as you know, deeply engaged in combatting the international dangers of Communism. Private initiative in the same good cause can be of great value.

I understand that the State Department has also been in touch with you with regard to your work and they have kindly sent me a copy of their recent letter to you.

Sincerely,

Signed

Allen W. Dulles
Director

DDP/CPP/ (15 Oct. 1958)

Retyped: AWD/ji

Distribution

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR

Mr. William Gill, Executive Secretary
Volunteers for Freedom
337 Blvd. of the Allies, Post Office Box 781
Pittsburgh 30, Pennsylvania

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~~The benefits that will accrue from this project will be, I believe principally to the people who participate in it. I think you are right in not expecting the Government to take the movement under its wing because that might prejudice its very value as the voluntary work of private citizens. You will appreciate that the U.S. Government is not in a position to endorse specifically the many worthy private organizations working toward a peaceful world even though it applauds their efforts which supplement its own. My organization is, as you know, deeply engaged in combatting Communism and I am pleased to hear of private initiative in the same good cause. I send, therefore, my good wishes for your endeavor.~~

Sincerely,

Allen W. Dulles
Director

Mr. William Gill, Executive Secretary
Volunteers for Freedom
137 Blvd. of the Allies, Post Office Box 781
Pittsburgh 30, Pennsylvania

Dear Mr. Gill:

I remember well our conversation in August and I have read with interest your letter to the President and the statement of purpose of the "Volunteers for Freedom." The preamble to the statement demonstrates an acute awareness of the Communist threat to the security of the free world. I might point out, in passing, that the threat is not only from "Communist imperialism" as a power factor but also from Communist ideology, which tends to counter directly the basic assumptions of our Western civilization. Not only governments and government agencies but private citizens and organizations must be alive to the menace and it is gratifying to note that you have turned the attention of your movement to mental and spiritual resistance to Communist inroads.

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cc: DDCI
Signature Recommended:

Sincerely,

Acting Deputy Director (Plans)

DDP/CPP/ [REDACTED] (16 Oct. 1958) Allen W. Dulles
[REDACTED] Director

Distribution: Orig - Mr. Gill

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volunteers for freedom

337 Blvd. of the Allies
Post Office Box 781
Pittsburgh 30, Penna.
Phone: GRant 1-9887

October 2, 1958

Mr. Allen Dulles, Director
Central Intelligence Agency
2430 E. St., N. W.
Washington 25, D. C.

Dear Mr. Dulles:

I am enclosing a copy of a letter which I sent to the President today with our revised Statement of Purpose.

We sincerely hope that you will find our program more acceptable in its present form. We have talked this thing over with many people since Mr. Heinz and I conferred with you and we came to the conclusion that the only way to approach the problem was to try to get world opinion behind the President's Peace Force proposal.

If you believe we are now on the right track, I would be deeply grateful for any help you can give us.

Sincerely,

William Gill
Executive Secretary

WG/bc
Enc:

October 2, 1958

Hon. Dwight D. Eisenhower
President of the United States
The White House
Washington 25, D. C.

Dear Mr. President:

We are about to begin here in Pittsburgh a great experiment in democracy. The crucial test of this experiment will be simply this: Can the people of America and the other free nations be fused into a single, dynamic movement that will again put freedom on the march in our world.

All through the summer a group of citizens has been working hard here to lay the foundation for this new freedom movement. And we have taken inspiration from your untiring efforts to shore up the defenses of the Free World in the Mideast, in the China Sea, and before the forum of the United Nations.

Our Statement of Purpose, which I am enclosing, was originally drafted, appropriately enough, on July Fourth. It has undergone some changes in wording since then and we have been fortunate enough to have had the advice and guidance of a number of outstanding Americans, some of whom are well known to you. But the basic precepts of this document remain unchanged and we now believe that we have a firm foundation on which to build this great crusade.

Within a week after our Statement of Purpose was first forged, we held here in Pittsburgh the founding meeting of Volunteers For Freedom. In attendance were some fifty representatives of labor, industry, the press, the legal profession, veterans organizations and other groups. Soon after this meeting I informed the Secretary of State of our intentions and in August two of us met with the Director of the Central Intelligence Agency.

The Director told us quite frankly that we could expect to encounter many difficulties before we could hope to implement the volunteer Peace Force. But this was more than a week before you went before the United Nations with your proposal for the creation of a Peace Force in the Mideast and I am hopeful that the Government will now

be more receptive to this phase of our program since it is so similar to the one you presented to the U. N.

The reason for our conference with Mr. Allen Dulles was to seek at least the tacit approval of the United States Government for our movement. And this is also the reason for this letter.

Many of the men who are interested in our movement have been understandably reluctant to take an active part in it without first obtaining some sort of sanction from the Government. I think this is an admirable attitude for them to take, and it is a measure of their loyalty to our country and to you personally.

We do not expect the Government to take our movement under its wing, but we do hope that it will be able to recognize the benefits that will accrue to our country and to all mankind if we can help unite the forces of freedom under the banner of truth, honor and justice.

Somehow I feel confident that you, Mr. President, will give us the signal to march forth and I respectfully submit our program for your kind consideration.

Sincerely,

William Gill
Executive Secretary

WG/bc
Enc:

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14 Oct. 58

Dear Mr. Gill:

I am replying for the President to your interesting letter concerning the organization, "Volunteers for Freedom."

The desire and purposes of your organization to assist in bringing about world peace reflect the foreign policy objectives of our Government. We are not, however, in a position to comment on the activities of private organizations.

There are, of course, many organizations, both national and international, that are working for world peace in many different ways. I know you realize that the President cannot support them all, nor can he select one organization for endorsement. Organizations particularly of the nature and purpose of yours, we feel, are likely to be more successful if they are privately organized and sponsored.

Sincerely yours,

Andrew H. Berding
Assistant Secretary

Mr. William Gill, Executive Secretary,
Volunteers for Freedom,
337 Boulevard of the Allies,
P. O. Box 781,
Pittsburgh 30, Pennsylvania

P:SEV:CMCampbell:ab 10/13/58 SEV-Mr. Rice P-Mr. McFadden
P:AHBerding:emh 10/14/58